

"Nantmell Hall" Tenant House
Northwest Corner of Lancaster Pike
and Radnor-Chester Road
Radnor Vicinity
Delaware County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1066

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

"NANTMELL HALL" TENANT HOUSE

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Location: Northwest Corner of Lancaster Pike and
Radnor-Chester Road, Radnor Vicinity, Delaware
County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Matthew Weinstein, Chetwynd Apartments, Rosemont,
Pennsylvania.

Present Occupant: None.

Present Use: None; expected to be demolished shortly.

Brief Statement
of Significance: This is a small, unpretentious early farm dwelling,
which has fine interior architectural detail.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: This was part of the Nantmell Hall farm left by John Morgan in 1744 to his son, Mordecai Morgan, which descended to Mordecai Morgan's heirs at his death in 1807 and was deeded by them in 1808 to Hannah Morgan, spinster. The Ash Map of Delaware County, 1848, shows it in possession of S. Worrall. It was later acquired by Joseph Johnson, in whose estate it appears in G. M. Hopkins, Atlas of Philadelphia and Environs (Philadelphia: 1877); it has been since that time part of the Vanor estate of the Johnson-Brown-Chew families and sold by the Chews in 1957 to Matthew Weinstein for development.
2. Date of erection: This house is not earlier than 1808 and may well have been built a few decades later, although the fireplaces seem early.
3. Original plans, construction, etc.: No information but apparently exactly as it appears today, except for addition at rear.

- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: During the second half of the nineteenth century, this was a tenant farm house occupied by tenants of Vanor, the Chew estate across Radnor-Chester Road. After occupancy of the property by the Main Line Golf Club (which leased from the Chew family), it was the house of the Manager of this public Golf Club. Now empty and present plans of the new owner for the development of this entire tract of land mean that the Cottage will undoubtedly have to be demolished.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: This small nineteenth-century farm house has some fine interior architectural detail.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: Rectangular house, three bays wide, plus rear wing, 2-1/2 stories high.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction: Fieldstone, plastered over and white-washed. Kitchen addition to rear has frame walls, probably late eighteenth or early nineteenth centuries.
4. Porches: A two-story wood frame porch exists on the south front.
5. Chimneys: Two old ones of brick at east and west ends. Chimney of brick in kitchen is a modern installation.
6. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: Encasement around front door is original, as is the door itself (two small panels above, four long vertical panels below). Outside door from west parlor has a four-panel door, probably a replacement.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Original sash windows in most instances. Old three-panel shutters downstairs, modern louvered shutters upstairs.
7. Roof
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof, wood shingles.
 - b. Cornice: Plain wooden cornice of flat board (no molding of any kind on it).

C. Technical Description of Interiors

1. Floor Plans: First floor--front door opens into main room (east side); one other main room to west; small frame kitchen extension to north. Second floor--three bedrooms and bath.

2. Stairways: Enclosed stairway, all original, rises on east wall next to fireplace.
3. Flooring: Some random-width floor boards, some replacements.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plastered, painted. Wooden trim around windows.
5. Doorways and doors: Original six-panel hall and closet doors in most of house.
6. Trim: There are cupboards built in at end of fireplaces in two west rooms. Chair rail in two principal rooms, on west side.
7. Hardware: Some old, some replacement.
8. Lighting: Electricity.
9. Heating: Four fireplaces, two on each side. Gas stove in kitchen disconnected. Furnace in basement. Other details not known.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: Very close to road on both sides of corner lot; motor traffic heavy and hazardous; access difficult, except by path from Golf Club House ("Nantmell Hall"). Building faces south.
2. Walks: Merely dirt path paralleling Lancaster Pike leading to Golf Club House.
3. Landscaping: A few trees, golf links behind.

Prepared by Francis J. Dallett
for Radnor Historical Society
June 1958

Addendum

This building was demolished in 1958.

James C. Massey, Architect
National Park Service
June 1961